

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of the claims in this application.

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A method to enable a user to at least specify, document and prototype an instrument having specific user interface elements ~~to meet individual customer/market needs~~, comprising displaying, with a graphical user interface, an image of a ~~customer-selected~~ user-selected instrument type, the image shown in two dimensions and having a coordinate system; enabling the ~~customer~~ user to specify, with the graphical user interface, individual ones of a plurality of instrument parameters and horizontal and vertical locations thereof in the coordinate system in a self-documenting fashion; wherein enabling comprises enabling the ~~customer~~ user to specify both a horizontal location and a vertical location on the image of at least one of the instrument parameters; in response to a selection of at least one type of instrument parameter, updating the displayed image to correspond to the selected instrument parameter at the specified horizontal and vertical location in the coordinate system; and developing at least one prototype instrument ~~for the customer~~ based on the selected parameters and the self-documentation.
2. (Original) A method as in claim 1, further comprising manufacturing an instrument based on the selected instrument parameters and the self-documentation.
3. (Previously Presented) A method to specify a gauge, comprising:  
in response to a user accessing a server coupled to a data communications network, displaying an image of a user-selected gauge type, the image shown in at least two dimensions and comprising a plurality of at least two-dimensional visual aids, the plurality of at least two-dimensional visual aids placed at a plurality of vertical and horizontal locations in the image, at least two of the plurality of at least two-dimensional visual aids having different shapes in the at least two dimensions and having different vertical locations on the image;  
enabling the user to specify individual ones of gauge functions of the visual aids using a plurality

of drop down menus; and

in response to a selection of at least one type of gauge function for one of the visual aids, changing the displayed image to correspond to the selected gauge function.

4. (Original) A method as in claim 3, further comprising preparing at least one sample of the selected gauge type in accordance with the selected gauge functions.

5. (Previously Presented) A method to specify a gauge, comprising:

in response to a user accessing a server coupled to a network, displaying an image of a user-selected gauge type comprising a set of configurable gauge functions located at a plurality of locations in the image;

displaying in association with the selected gauge type a set of visual aids corresponding to defined functions;

enabling the user to specify individual ones of the configurable gauge functions using said set of visual aids and a drag and drop technique for selecting individual visual aids from the set of visual aids and associating a selected visual aid with a configurable gauge function, wherein associating also associates the configurable gauge function with a defined function corresponding to the selected visual aid, and wherein enabling comprises enabling the user to move using the drag and drop technique at least one of the configurable gauge functions in at least two dimensions on the image of the selected gauge type; and

outputting a data file for use in manufacturing at least one sample of the selected gauge type in accordance with the configurable gauge functions corresponding to the selected visual aids and associated defined functions.

6. (Previously Presented) A method as in claim 5, where at least one of the configurable gauge functions is located at a fixed location in the image.

7. (Original) A method as in claim 5, where the configurable gauge functions are located at user selected locations in the image.

8. (Original) A method as in claim 5, where the configurable gauge functions are located at user selected locations in the image, and have a fixed size and shape.

9. (Original) A method as in claim 5, where the configurable gauge functions are located at user selected locations in the image, and have at least one of a size and a shape selected by the user.

10. (Currently Amended) A tool operable to specify a gauge, said tool comprising:

a computer operable to execute a configurator program; and

a graphical user interface coupled to the computer for displaying an image of a selected gauge type, the image shown in at least two dimensions and comprising a plurality of visual aids, the plurality of visual aids placed at a plurality of vertical and horizontal locations in the image, the graphical user interface further for enabling a user of the web tool to specify individual ones of gauge functions of the visual aids using at least one drop down menu, wherein the graphical user interface enables specification by the user of both a horizontal location and a vertical location in the image of at least one of the instrument parameters, the graphical user interface further operable, in response to a selection of at least one type of gauge function for one of the visual aids, to change the displayed image to correspond to the selected gauge function.

11. (Currently Amended) A tool as in claim 10, said computer further operable to send a data file for use in preparing at least one sample of the selected gauge type in accordance with the selected gauge functions.

12. (Currently Amended) A tool operable to enable a user to specify a gauge, said tool comprising:

a computer operable to execute a configurator program; and

a graphical user interface coupled to the computer for displaying an image of a user-selected

gauge type comprising a set of configurable gauge functions located at a plurality of locations in the image, for displaying in association with the selected gauge type a set of visual aids corresponding to defined functions and for enabling the user to specify individual ones of the configurable gauge functions using said set of visual aids with a drag and drop technique for selecting individual visual aids from the set of visual aids and associating a selected visual aid with a configurable gauge function, wherein associating also associates the configurable gauge function with a defined function corresponding to the selected visual aid, and wherein said graphical user interface enables a user to move using the drag and drop technique at least one of the configurable gauge functions in at least two dimensions on the image of the selected gauge type, said tool being further operable for outputting a data file for use in manufacturing at least one sample of the selected gauge type in accordance with the configurable gauge functions corresponding to the selected visual aids and associated defined functions.

13. (Previously Presented) A tool as in claim 12, where at least one of the configurable gauge functions is located at a fixed location in the image.

14. (Original) A tool as in claim 12, where the configurable gauge functions are located at user selected locations in the image.

15. (Original) A tool as in claim 12, where the configurable gauge functions are located at user selected locations in the image, and have a fixed size and shape.

16. (Currently Amended) A tool as in claim 12, where the configurable gauge functions are located at customer user selected locations in the image, and have at least one of a size and a shape that is selected by the user.

17-45. (Canceled)

46. (Previously Presented) A method as in claim 5, wherein the data file comprises a mapping data file configured to instruct a controller to map between gauge inputs and associated ones of

the gauge functions.

47. (Previously Presented) A method as in claim 5, further comprising allowing, after a visual aid has been associated with a chosen configurable gauge function, the user to perform at least one of changing a location of the chosen configurable gauge function, re-sizing the chosen configurable gauge function, changing an orientation of the chosen configurable gauge function, changing an aspect ratio of the chosen configurable gauge function, or changing a shape of the chosen configurable gauge function, and wherein the data file also comprises information corresponding to resultant location, size, orientation aspect ratio, or shape of the chosen configurable gauge function.

48. (Previously Presented) A tool as in claim 12, wherein the data file comprises a mapping data file configured to instruct a controller to map between gauge inputs and associated ones of the gauge functions.

49. (Previously Presented) A tool as in claim 12, wherein the graphical user interface is further for allowing, after a visual aid has been associated with a chosen configurable gauge function, the user to perform at least one of changing a location of the chosen configurable gauge function, re-sizing the chosen configurable gauge function, changing an orientation of the chosen configurable gauge function, changing an aspect ratio of the chosen configurable gauge function, or changing a shape of the chosen configurable gauge function, and wherein the data file also comprises information corresponding to resultant location, size, orientation aspect ratio, or shape of the chosen configurable gauge function.

50. (Previously Presented) A tool as in claim 12, wherein the data file comprises a mapping data file configured to instruct a controller to map between gauge inputs and associated ones of the gauge functions.

51.-55. Cancelled

56. (Previously Presented) A method, comprising:

displaying a gauge face for a user-selected gauge type, the gauge face shown in two dimensions; displaying, in association with the selected gauge type, a set of visual aids at predetermined vertical and horizontal locations on the gauge face, each of the visual aids corresponding to at least one potential gauge function; enabling a user to specify at least one of the potential gauge functions for each of selected ones of the visual aids in the set; outputting a data file for use in manufacturing a sample of a gauge corresponding to the user-selected gauge type, the data file comprising data corresponding to the selected visual aids and the associated specified gauge functions and locations on the gauge thereof; and based at least on the output data file, manufacturing the sample of the gauge, wherein a gauge face of the gauge comprises symbols corresponding to the visual aids, each symbol presented on the gauge face at a horizontal and vertical location that corresponds to a corresponding visual aid, and wherein the gauge comprises a controller to provide the specified gauge functions corresponding to the symbols of the visual aids.

57. (Previously Presented) A method, comprising:

displaying a gauge face for a user-selected gauge type, the gauge face shown in two dimensions; displaying, in association with the selected gauge type, a set of visual aids, each of the visual aids corresponding to at least one potential gauge function; enabling a user to place selected ones of the visual aids at horizontal and vertical locations chosen by the user; enabling the user to specify at least one of the potential gauge functions for each of selected ones of the visual aids in the set; outputting a data file for use in manufacturing a sample of a gauge corresponding to the user-selected gauge type, the data file comprising data corresponding to the selected visual aids and the associated specified gauge functions and locations on the gauge thereof; and based at least on the output data file, manufacturing the sample of the gauge, wherein a gauge face of the gauge comprises symbols corresponding to the visual aids, each symbol presented on the gauge face at a horizontal and vertical location that corresponds to a corresponding visual aid,

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and wherein the gauge comprises a controller to provide the specified gauge functions corresponding to the symbols of the visual aids.